

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00578 311540Z  
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /075 W  
-----022903 311600Z /43  
P 311500Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7088

S E C R E T BUJUMBURA 0578

EO 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: XA CU UR MPOL BY CG  
SUBJ: SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 134913

1. BURUNDI'S OFFICIAL POSITION IS THAT IT  
MAINTAINS RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES, REGARDLESS OF  
IDEOLOGY, WHICH RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHER NATIONS.  
GRB GENERALLY LEANS OVER BACKWARD, HOWEVER, TO  
RATIONALIZE SOCIALIST INIAUATIVES TO KEEP THEM IN  
THIS FRAMEWORK WHILE CARPING AT WESTERN ACTIONS.  
THUS, GRB WOULD PROBABLY MAINTAIN, FOR EXAMPLE,  
THAT CUBANS IN ANGOLA AT INVITATION OF LEGITIMATE  
GOVERNMENT. WITH EXEPTION OF FEW PRAGMATIC LEADERS,  
BAGAZA INCLUDED, WHO RECOGNIZE THAT DEVLOPING COUNTRY  
WILL REQUIRE LONG, HARD AND ENLIGHTENDED EFFORT,  
SYMPATHIES OF BURUNDIANS AT LARGE LIE WITH EASY  
RHETORIC OF SOCIALIST BLOC.

2. IN DESCRIBING GRB VIEWS ON SPECIFIC  
QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL, WE THINK IT USEFUL  
TO LIMIT DISCUSSION TO BAGAZA HIMSELF WHO IS KEY  
FIGURE IN GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH HE MUST TAKE INTO  
ACCOUNT DIVERGENT VIEWS OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF  
GOVERNING COALITION. WE BELIEVE BAGAZA DESIRES  
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POLITICALLY STALBLE ECONOMICALLY IMPROVING AFRICA.  
HE PROBABLY THINKS WEST HAS NEITHER CAPACITY NOR  
WILL TO BRING THIS ABOUT AND THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
RUSSO-CUBAN ADVERTURISM THEREFORE ARISE. ONCE THIS  
OCCURS HE UNDOUBTEDLY BEGINS TO VIEW EAST-WEST  
TENSION IN TERMS OF HOW IT IS LIKELY TO AFFECT  
BURUNDI. FOR EXAMPLE, BURUNDI SAID NOTHING ABOUT

SHABA INVASION, PER SE. WE KNOW, HOWEVER, GRB  
INTENSELY CONCERNED ABOUT FUTURE OF ZAIRE SINCE  
GRB PROBABLY BELIEVES BURUNDI CAN EXIST SAFELY ONLY  
WITH GOOD RELATIONS WITH WHOMEVER IS RULING KIVU.  
THUS, IF GRB GETS IMPRESSION ZAIRE BREAKING UP, IT  
WILL PROBABLY MOVE TO ESTABLISH SOME KIND OF RELATIONS  
WITH POTENTIAL LEADERS OF KIVU. THIS COULD WELL PUT  
BURUNDIANS INTO SAME CAMP AS CUBANS. IN SHORT, BAGAZA  
PROBABLY DISLIKES RUSSO- CUBAN AMBITIONS AND WHOULD BE  
VERY CAREFUL ABOUT LETTING THEM GET OUT OF CONTROL IN  
BURUNDI, BUT HE UNDOUBTEDLY VIEWS THEM AS INEVITABLE GIVEN  
THE POLITICIO-ECONOMIC INSTABILITY IN AFRICA.  
CORCORAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 may 1978  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA  
**TAGS:** MPOL, XA, CU, UR, BY, CG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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